

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SAM-01 SP-01 PM-03 L-01 INR-05

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R 171740Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 249

INFO US MISSION NATO 471

16TH AIR FORCE

JUSMG/MAAG

CINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 6564

LIMDIS

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, SP, US

SUBJ: BASE NEGOTIATIONS

1. DURING CALL AT MFA OCT 14 BY POLITICAL COUNSELOR AND LUKENS, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS (PERINAT) SUGGESTED THAT IF U.S. DEPARTURE FROM TORREJON AB UNDER CONSIDERATION, U.S. SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT IT WOULD BE GESTURE THAT WOULD HELP SPAIN POLITICALLY IN RENEGOTIATING AFC. PERINAT WENT ON TO COMMENT THAT REASON FOR PRESENCE OF MAJOR U.S. BASE SO NEAR MADRID STILL INCOMPREHENSIBLE TO KEY PERSONS IN SPANISH GOVT. FRANCO HIMSELF, ACCORDING TO PERINAT, ONCE INQUIRED WHO HAD MADE DECISION TO LOCATE USAF AT TORREJON AND WHY. PERINAT'S REMARKS IN MARKED CONTRAST, HOWEVER, TO WHAT SPANISH AIR FORCE OFFICERS INCLUDING LT GEN SALVADOR, FORMER AIR MINISTER, HAVE TOLD AIRATT AND DEP CG, 16TH AF, I.E., THAT SPANISH AIR FORCE NOT DESIROUS OF ASSUMING ANY ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FUNCTIONS, MUCH LESS SOLE OCCUPATION OF TORREJON.

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2. IMMEDIATE CONCLUSION WE MUST DRAW FROM THIS AND PREVIOUS

INDICATIONS IS THAT WHILE MFA AS CIVILIAN AGENT OF GOS IS CURRENTLY HOLDING INITIATIVE IN NEGOTIATIONS, INTERESTS OF INDIVIDUAL SPANISH MILITARY SERVICES HAVE NOT YET BEEN ASSERTED. THUS TORREJON APPEARS TO BE AN ISSUE THAT THE GOS AS A WHOLE HAS NOT COME TO GRIPS WITH, I.E., BALANCING THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL ADVANTAGES OF DISCONTINUING U.S. PRESENCE AGAINST THE MILITARY DISADVANTAGES OF HAVING TO RUN THE BASE THEMSELVES. WE SUSPECT THIS KIND OF LACK OF COORDINATION MAY WELL SPILL OVER INTO OTHER AREAS WHERE MILITARY AND POLITICAL INTERESTS CONFLICT.

3. FURTHER CONCLUSION TO BE DRAWN, ALSO CONFIRMED BY GENERAL DOLZ TO AIRATT IN CONVERSATION OCT 15 IS LACK OF PREPARATION IN GENERAL. THIS MAY EXPLAIN IN PART WHY PERINAT APPEARED EAGER TO POSTPONE JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING PROPOSED FOR NOVEMBER 5. WHILE HIS REASONING OSTENSIBLY IS CONFLICT WITH ARRIVAL OF AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY, PERINAT'S EAGERNESS IN CONTEXT OF WHAT WE ALREADY KNOW GIVES EVERY INDICATION MFA IS JUST GETTING CRANKED UP FOR EARLY NOVEMBER SESSIONS AND DOES NOT WANT DISTRACTIONS TO INTERFERE WITH ITS EFFORTS AT THIS LATE HOUR.

4. REGARDING QUESTION OF SECURITY GUARANTEE, CHICAGO TRIBUNE'S LONDON BUREAU CHIEF INFORMED EMBASSY PRESS OFFICER THAT PERINAT HAD RECENTLY TOLD HIM GOS WOULD PRESS FOR SECURITY GUARANTEE OR "ARMS EQUIVALENT OF ONE."
RIVERO

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